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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARTHA MCSALLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, inspire our lawmakers to commit to accomplishing Your purposes in our Nation and world. As they seek Your wisdom, teach them Your precepts and direct their steps. May they live lives of obedience and abundance as they follow where You lead.

Lord, provide them with courage to do right as You give them the ability to follow Your footsteps. Help them to make glorifying You their top priority.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 26, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARTHA MCSALLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. MCSALLY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, AND HEALTH EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4378, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4378) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:15 p.m. will be divided in the usual form.

If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The majority leader is recognized.

### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, exactly 1 year ago, the administration announced the most significant trade deal in a generation—a landmark agreement with Mexico and Canada to strengthen two of our Nation's key trading relationships.

The USMCA is the most consequential update of trade policy on this continent in a quarter century. It is a huge opportunity to notch new pro-Amer-

ican policy victories and keep our North American neighbors close while we tackle other challenges, such as China.

Here we are, months after all three countries' leaders signed the agreement, and we are still waiting on the House Democrats to let it move forward. Mexico has already passed it, and Canada is waiting on our move. The Senate is ready and eager to ratify it, but the Senate can't go first. The clock is ticking.

Month after month, even as the House Democrats have continually made vague statements that they support the USMCA and want to see it passed, we have yet to see any real progress. Canada, Mexico, and millions of Americans are waiting for Speaker PELOSI to remember that serving the public interest requires more than just picking fights with the President; it actually entails addressing the people's business.

Mexico and Canada are vital partners at every level of the U.S. economy. They provide enormous, growing markets for American-made products. They, together, buy more than \$500 billion in U.S. goods and services every single year. It is a half-a-trillion-dollar export market. Every State, every industry, every corner of our country is involved.

For 90 percent of America's manufacturing sectors, Mexico or Canada ranks as the No. 1 or No. 2 export destination. For American farmers and producers, our two neighbors buy almost two-thirds of all the agricultural exports we sell to all of our free-trade partners combined. We aren't just talking about Big Business. Tens of thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses count on their Mexican or Canadian customers to succeed.

These realities affect Americans' real lives. In the last 25 years, as trade with Mexico and Canada has quadrupled, 12 million U.S. jobs have come to depend on cross-border commerce. Many of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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